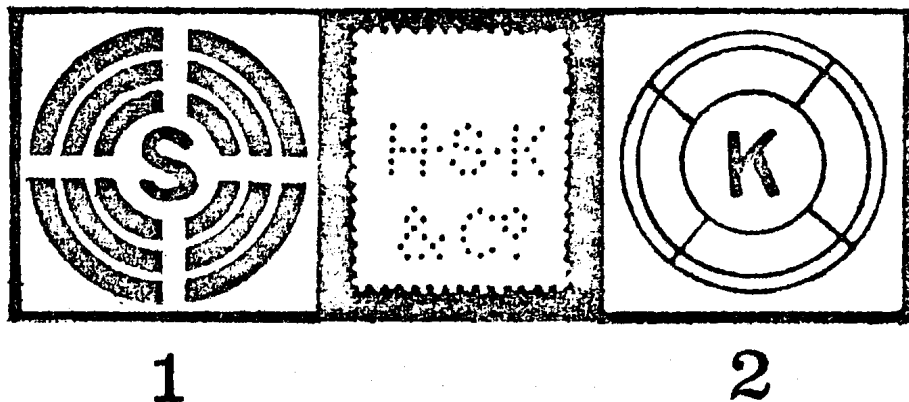


POSTMARK PROOF OF PERFIN USER

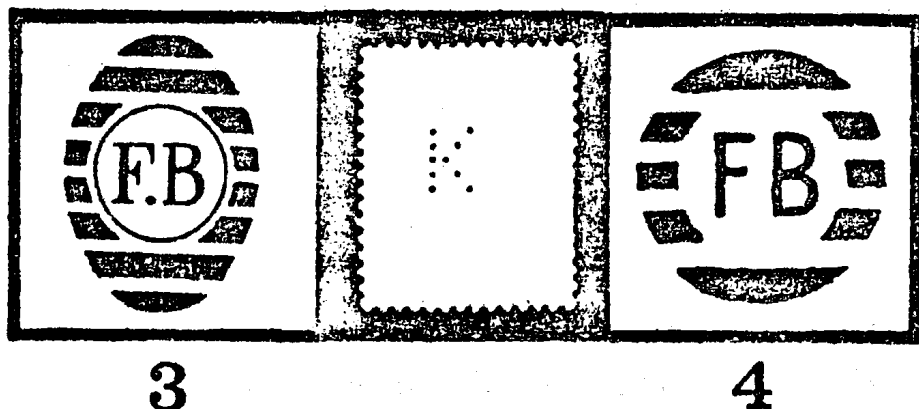
Over the last few years a number of members have enquired of me the reason for constant postmarks on a certain few perfin. There have been articles on this subject in both our Bulletin and the Perfin Club Bulletin and I had put the idea of a reprint onto 'hold' in case I found the time, Bulletin space and - a nudge in the right direction.

Now Dave Hill has given me that nudge. He has sent illustrations from James Mackay's books on postmarks, showing the postmarks used by the perfin users in question. I will plait together the article of Mike Burrows in The Perfin Bulletin, September 1975 with the comments sent by Dave Hill. It may give members a fuller picture of this small group of very collectable items.

The Foreign Branch of the British Post Office made special cancellations available for certain private companies.

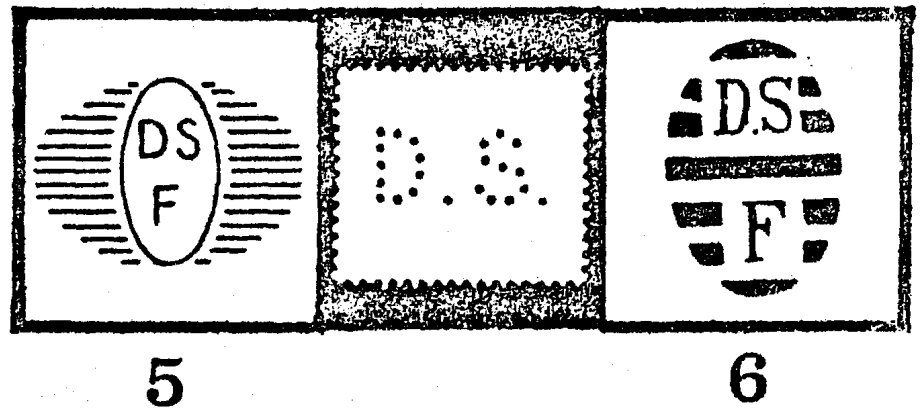


The first example was issued in November, 1865, and was used by SMITH, ELDER & CO. (Figure 1). This company was taken over by HENRY S. KING & CO. in 1868, but the distinctive postmark (Figure 2) was not issued until September 20, 1875. Although the business of the company was banking, it was the Official Stock Exchange Lists that they sent out which needed the postmark.



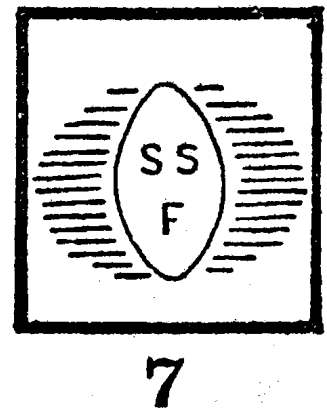
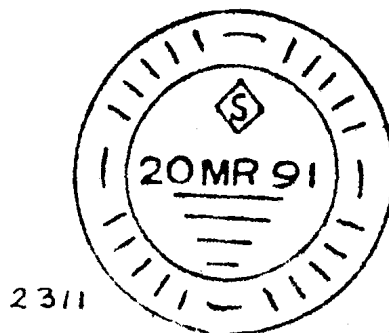
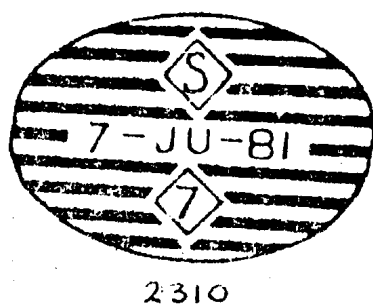
The perfin 'K' (K0010.06) can be seen with a variety of Foreign Branch cancellations. When this perfin superseded HSK/&Co. is not known but the date of 5 March 1883 has been seen.

The next company to obtain a special obliterator was WILLIAM DAWSON & SONS (Figure 5). Issued on 13th February 1880.



A smaller type is also known. William Dawson had another mark issued for their use (Figure 6) on 13th May 1890.

A mark similar to Figure 5 is known for W.H.SMITH & SONS, with "SS" in place of "DS" (Figure 7) Dave found two more obliterations used by W.H.Smith illustrated in Mackay's book. Both make use of the letter 'S' in a diamond.



It is believed that all of the above mentioned obliterations were intended to pre-cancel stamped wrappers, so as not to delay despatch from printer to post office. The idea being that these companies were permitted to cancel their wrappers and take consignments of newspapers and magazines direct to the mail trains for onward delivery.

However, some are known cancelling adhesive stamps, both ordinary and perfined. Many values of stamps are found with the perfins HSK/C°, K, and various dies of D.S. with these special cancellations. As yet, no perfins of W.H.Smith & Sons have been found with their obliterator.

If members think it worthwhile, I can publish a list of the known stamp issues with perfin tied by special obliterator. I have a list from various sources but your input would be appreciated.